



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Proposed Plan Available for Meadowood Farm

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States (ES) will release on November 18, 2002, the Proposed Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment (PA/EA) for management of the approximately 800 acres known as Meadowood Farm on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Fairfax County, Virginia. According to Mike Nedd, BLM, ES State Director, the Proposed PA/EA represents a balance between management and protection of natural resources and the recreational use of Meadowood Farm by the public.

The decisions made in the Proposed PA/EA will not be final until after a 30-day protest period and completion of the Governor's consistency review, for which 60 days is allowed. The Decision Record approving the management decisions made in the PA/EA will be withheld until all protests, if any, are resolved. Protests must be filed with the Director of the BLM by December 18, 2002.

Meadowood Farm was privately owned until acquired by BLM. In response to public interest in BLM's acquisition and future management of Meadowood Farm, public meetings were held in April 2000 and in May 2001. Their purpose was to identify issues or concerns the public would like to see addressed in the planning document. A total of 439 written comments, including form letters and petitions, were received on the Draft PA/EA. A public meeting was held on May 22, 2002, so individuals could provide comments on the Draft PA/EA. The meeting was attended by over 100 people with 29 people providing oral comments.

According to State Director Nedd, "The Proposed PA/EA meets BLM, Eastern States mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM, Eastern States accomplishes its mission by employing the Secretary of the Interior's '4 C's' which are 'communication, consultation, cooperation, all in the service of conservation.'"

"BLM expects to provide safe, quality recreation opportunities while protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources at Meadowood Farm," Nedd said.